

Testimony of Mary E. Burnham  
Education Committee Public Hearing  
March 7, 2016

Regarding: HB 5555 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND PROHIBITING THE INCLUSION OF PARTICIPATION RATES FOR THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION IN THE CALCULATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX SCORE."

The passage of this bill, in my opinion, is essential. Please vote YES.

Why – this bill seeks to **remove the punishment** that the CSDE wants to impose upon school districts that do not meet the 95% participation rate for the "mastery exam" the Smarter Balanced Assessment test (SBAC).

This bill will remove the participation rates of the mastery exam (SBAC) from the accountability index.

The accountability index has 12 indicators which schools earn points for. One of those points is the participation rate – that is if a school district does not test at least 95% of the students, the school district will lose points and would then be financially punished by the CSDE!!!

This bill will STOP the CSDE from trying to force parents to have their children take the SBAC tests. Many parents do NOT want their children to take the test, which is every parent's right!!

By passing this bill, you will keep local school personnel – superintendents, principals, and teachers – from being forced by CSDE to coerce parents into making their children take the SBAC tests. A test which many parents feel is harmful to their children!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary E Burnham  
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